For Immediate Release

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**Illinois Mirrors National Trends for Women Officeholders**

***The Lincoln Series Hosts Campaign Training Programs to Encourage Women to Run for Office***

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**May 21, 2018 (LaGrange, Ill.)** – In an effort to boost the number of women who hold office in Illinois, The Lincoln Series will host two campaign training programs, one in Northern Illinois on Saturday, June 16 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Palatine Township Republican Organization Headquarters; and the other on Saturday, June 23 in Springfield from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Sangamo Club. Both programs are identical, and are offered at two different sites to reach as many women from different areas of the state as possible.

“Men occupy 80% of Illinois’ Congressional seats and almost 70% of the state’s legislative seats,” said Jean Sinzdak, associate director of the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, an organization that tracks women officeholders around the country. “This mirrors national trends for women’s underrepresentation. Programs like The Lincoln Series are crucial to help close this gap by encouraging and training women to run for and serve in elected office.”

These campaign training programs are geared toward women who are 2018 candidates, those thinking of running for office in 2019 or the future, campaign operatives, volunteers and party workers.

“We’re excited to host these training programs because the more knowledge women have about running for office, the more confident and willing women will be to put their name on the ballot,” said Eva Pusateri, president of The Lincoln Series.

The campaign training will cover campaign basics and how to win an election.  Additionally, sessions in the training will include how to become a candidate; overview of campaigning; messaging; speech coaching; as well as fundraising.

The Lincoln Series recently launched a dynamic, new program in an effort to encourage more women to become a part of the political process. This new program casts a wider net of offerings for Republican women at all levels of public service interest from novice to seasoned professional. Additionally, the flexible programming helps women choose their level of interest in public service education according to their personal daily schedule.

The Lincoln Series was founded in 1994 by Mary Jo Arndt; Laura Anderson; Blanche Hill Fawell; Zulma Barrios; Alice Phillips; and Joanne Dutcher Maxwell. Since its inception, The Lincoln Series has graduated more than 200 women, some of who have gone on to become lieutenant governor, Illinois state senator, Illinois state representative and presidential appointees to name a few. The Lincoln Series is committed to being the premier educational and preparatory training program for Republican women in Illinois. This elite program empowers women with the tools, knowledge and statewide network to become purposeful leaders in elected and appointed offices and party leadership. For more information including programming, membership and newsletters, *please visit lincolnseries.com* *or follow us on Facebook(@IllinoisLincolnSeries) or Twitter (@lincolnseries).*

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